

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

8/2/06
XEG

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line ¹⁶~~12~~ and ending on page 3, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

A fuel nozzle is provided having a first fuel passage and first fuel injection means, a second fuel passage and second fuel injection means, an air passage and air injection means, and a steam passage and steam injection means. In the preferred embodiment, the second fuel passage is located along the nozzle centerline with the air passage radially outward of the second fuel passage, and the steam passage radially outward of the air passage. Lastly, the first fuel passage is located radially outward of the steam passage. The steam passage is supplied with steam by a steam inlet that is connected to a steam manifold where the steam manifold supplies steam to each fuel nozzle. In order to control the steam flow to the fuel nozzle, a meterplate having at least one metering hole of constant diameter is placed at the steam inlet. The meterplate, in conjunction with the steam passage geometry and steam injection means, serves to regulate the pressure drop of the steam as well as the velocity of the steam. Controlling the pressure drop and velocity allows the operator to minimize the mal-distribution effects within a single combustor or between multiple combustors and reduce sensitivity to upstream steam supply variations, each of which reduce potentially damaging combustion dynamics. A further advantage of the present invention relates to the reduction of the exhaust gas temperature spread. Typically, exhaust gases can vary by as much as 80 degrees Fahrenheit between adjacent combustors, thereby exposing the turbine to varying inlet temperatures, causing thermal distress to the vanes and blades. By maintaining better control over the steam flow for each combustor,

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